The ineſtimabl Profit, and Benefit, which may accrue unto all Learners to read or write our Engliſh Tongue, by publiſhing of an *Engliſh Abcedary* (the greateſt and chieſeſt part wherof, is) in a Manuſcript, made for that purpoſe. 1674

IT is hereby certified, that in mine *Engliſh Abcedary*, I have contriv'd and compos'd a ſhorter and more *compendious way*, for the tru reading and writing of our *Engliſh Tongue*, then hitherto hath been perfected by any; the ignorance whereof is very *diſadvantagious*, and *diſcommodious* unto both Church and Common-wealth, as I am rationally able to make appear unto any *ſober and moderate minded man*; it being wonderfull profitabl for theſe enſuing purpoſes *viz.*

1. In teaching Children, the tru and artificiall *reading, and writing of our Engliſh Tongue* in a ſhort time, (the doing whereof uſually taketh up *ſeveral years*) * with reaſon and judgement for very ſmall charges.

2. It will be an *excellent means*, whereby all Engliſh-men and women, *not being exact* in the reading and writing of the ſame tongue, may therein *be thereby perfected*.

3. It will be an extraordinary help unto *Servants, Apprentices, poor peopl* and others, at years of diſcretion, not having the benefit of Schools, who may thereby through *their own indeavours*, (with litl help from others, uſing and practiſing this way each day a litl at leaſure times) in a ſhort ſpace attain unto *perfect reading & writing* of the abovſaid tongue.

4. It will be an unſpeakabl help unto all *Schoolmaſters, and Schoolmiſtreſſes*, in their teaching to read and write the ſame, who knowing and practiſing this way, may teach an hundred Schollars, with more eaſ and benefit unto themſelvs, and more Schollars, than formerly they have taught twenty.

5. All who ſhall be taught this way, ſhall be thereby better *fitted* and *prepared* for the *Grammar ſchool*, and writing of ſhort hand,

6. Laſtly, it will prov a moſt ready help, unto *all Strangers, and forraigners*, in reading and writing the ſaid tongue, with many exceeding benefits more, which herein cannot be named, nor related.

* Mr. *Coot*, ſomtime a Schoolmaſter at St. *Edmunds Bury*, a Man who deſerv's Eternal memory, for his worthy endeavours to honour our Engliſh tongue with certainty and ſetlment, makes this too ſad, and too juſt complaint, that "*It is lamentable to ſee, into what ignorant hands ling fully litl Children chance, which ſhould at firſt be skillfully grounded, which is the only cauſ of ſuch wofull ignorance, in ſo many Men and women, that cannot write (without great error) one ſentence of tru Engliſh: therfore let Parents now be carefull, to whom they commit their children.* To which I may ſay this more, that this firſt miſcarriage makes them inclinabl to error all the days of their life after, which the experience of *Horace* did, as ours doth prov tru: *Quo ſemel imbuta recens, ſervabit odorem teſta diu.*

The Pitcher new retaineth long,
What at the firſt it taſted ſtrong.

For prevention whereof, *Solomon* long before had given this Counſel, *Pro.* 22. 6. *Train up a child in the way he ſhould go: and when he is old he will not depart from it.* Therefore it muſt needs be a ſpecial duty of Parents and Guardians, to take greateſt heed, in the firſt *giving and providing of Principls* of literature, to be given to their Youth under their charge, which muſt needs be (amongſt Engliſhmen at home) in the *Engliſh tongue*: for which purpoſe, I have buiſied my thoughts more about that, than any other matter, abov this eleven years, in the compoſing of this Book, the main objection againſt which, is, that it is abov the *Capacity of Children*, to which I anſwer, *Experience* ſhews the contrary in *my School*: and if that were not, reaſon will make it good, for Children have *diſcourſive reaſon*, in their *meaſure* and *proportion*, anſwerable to their *education, age, and inducement* of Nature, as is clear from their *Paſſions of fear and love*, which they continually exerciſe upon every occaſion; therefore the ſame muſt needs be capabl *of diſcourſe, conceit, and apprehenſion*, according to their *Mod.ll and Management* as well as elder peopl, and thus they as capabl of this Way and Method as any other.

The exceeding, and incomparabl uſe and benefit of the two firſt parts of the abovſaid Engliſh Abcedary, viz. *An* Engliſh Syllabary, *and an* Engliſh Monoſyllabary, *with the Art of* Syllabication *lately made Publick.*

1. THe *Method, Diſcipline*, and *Order* (therewith preſcribed) being uſed in the teaching *of the ſaid books*, will not onely ſpeedily, and groundedly enter Children, in their learning to ſpell, and read our Engliſh tongue with certainty; but it will alſo *much better frame*, and *diſpoſe their capacities* to a more ſpeedy and right receiving of profitabl Inſtruction, *in ſubjects far higher*, and at a much *greater diſtance*.

2. It will make them to call all their letters not by *uncouth, præternatural, and diſſonant names*, but by their ſeveral *Powers*, according to the *purport, and Analogy of our Engliſh Alphabet*.

3. Whatſoever ſhall be *thus taught them*, will be made their own, and that with *art, reaſon*, and *judgement*, preventing all learning by rote.

4. It will bring them to a *diſtinct knowledg* of all the ſeveral natures & kinds *of all the ſeveral Vowels, Conſonants, and Diphthongs, proper, and improper*, as alſo of all *ſyllabls*, and their numbers in all *words*.

5. It will make them perfect, in the exact, artificial, and regular *Orthography* of all *Engliſh Monoſyllabls*.

Laſtly, the *Art of Syllabication*, taught therewith as directed, will bring them to read and write our Engliſh tongue, with *certainty and judgment*, thereby alſo Apprentices, ſervants, and all poor peopl at years of diſcretion, wanting skill and perfection therein, may therby perfect their *reading*, and much further their *Orthography in writing*; for which purpoſe, it is alſo one of the beſt helps in teaching *Strangers*, and *Forraigners* our language, that was ever yet extant, with many unvaluabl benefits more made good by daily experience.

Ita teſtor Joſephus Riparius, *anglicè* Brooksbank, *in ſacris ordinibus Presbyter, and at preſent Schoolmaſter* in Jeruſalem Court *in* Fleetſtreet, *where the ſaid Books, (with others) are to be ſold.*

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